DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Office of the Secretary
Washington, D.C. 20201

JAN 27 2016

Kay A. Johnson, M.P.H., M.Ed.
Chairperson
Secretary's Advisory Committee on Infant Mortality
5600 Fishers Lane, Room 13-91
Rockville, MD 20857

Dear Ms. Johnson:

Thank you for your letter to Secretary Burwell on behalf of the Secretary's Advisory Committee on Infant Mortality (SACIM) providing greater detail on how to operationalize the fourth strategic direction in your January 2013 report—increase health equity and reduce disparities by targeting social determinants of health through both multi-sector investments in high-risk, under-resourced communities and major initiatives to address poverty. The Secretary asked that I respond to you on her behalf.

It is clear that SACIM is building on the efforts of the Administration to improve women's health through implementation of the Affordable Care Act and other federal initiatives. Specifically, by identifying five core recommendations for this strategy, along with identifying related actions for consideration, you are providing the Department with valuable information for analysis. The Secretary has directed her staff to thoroughly review the report and consider whether we can incorporate your core recommendations and related actions into our national efforts to improve birth outcomes and reduce infant mortality.

I appreciate the counsel of SACIM and look forward to our continued work together on infant mortality. I will also provide this response to Dr. Troutman.

Sincerely,

Mary Wakefield

Mary K. Wakefield
Acting Deputy Secretary

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Adewale Troutman, M.D., M.P.H., M.A., CPH
Chair
Health Equity Work Group
Secretary's Advisory Committee on Infant Mortality
5600 Fishers Lane, Room 13-91
Rockville, MD 20857

Dear Dr. Troutman:

Thank you for your letter to Secretary Burwell on behalf of the Secretary's Advisory Committee on Infant Mortality (SACIM) providing greater detail on how to operationalize the fourth strategic direction in your January 2013 report—increase health equity and reduce disparities by targeting social determinants of health through both multi-sector investments in high-risk, under-resourced communities and major initiatives to address poverty. The Secretary asked that I respond to you on her behalf.

It is clear that SACIM is building on the efforts of the Administration to improve women's health through implementation of the Affordable Care Act and other federal initiatives. Specifically, by identifying five core recommendations for this strategy, along with identifying related actions for consideration, you are providing the Department with valuable information for analysis. The Secretary has directed her staff to thoroughly review the report and consider whether we can incorporate your core recommendations and related actions into our national efforts to improve birth outcomes and reduce infant mortality.

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